

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 20, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 20, 2007. Claims 1-115 and 118-130 are pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 56, and 106 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Artynov, et al.* (US 5,031,699). The Examiner also rejected independent claims 1, 56, and 106 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Bodine* (US 4,716,555) or *Smith* (US 3,048,226). In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 56, and 106 to overcome the rejection. As amended, claims 1, 56, and 106 include the limitations of claims 49, 105, and 107, respectively, which the Examiner indicated as allowable in section 5 of the Office Action. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 1, 56, and 106 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same. Additionally, the claims that depend from claims 1, 56, and 106 are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 56, and 106.

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 56, 118, 124, and 128 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by *Freeman* (US 6,681,862). In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 56, 124, and 128. Additionally, Applicants has cancelled claim 118.

As amended, claims 1 and 56 include the limitations of claims 49 and 105, respectively, which the Examiner indicated as allowable in section 5 of the Office Action. As amended, claim 124 includes the limitation of a pulse generator configured to generate and apply a varying fluid pressure to the tubing such that the tubing is expanded. *Freeman* fails to disclose this limitation. In contrast, *Freeman* merely discloses an expander member attached to coil tubing, wherein a tubular is expanded by urging the expander member through the tubular by pulling on the coiled tubing and by utilizing a fluid force acting on the expander member (see *Freeman*, col. 5, lines 55-65). As amended, claim 128 includes the limitation of an expansion cone adapted to retain expansion induced by elevated fluid pressure, the expansion cone includes a

plurality of fluid outlets on a sloped surface thereof for communicating pressurized fluid from the pressuring system to an inner diameter of the tubing. *Freeman* fails to disclose this limitation. In contrast, *Freeman* merely discloses an expander member having a single bore therethrough for communicating fluid from the coil tubing to a location below the expander member (see *Freeman*, Figures 2 and 3). As such, *Freeman* does not disclose a pulse generator as recited in claim 124 or an expansion cone having a plurality of fluid outlets on a sloped surface thereof as recited in claim 128.

As the foregoing illustrates, *Freeman* fails to teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 1, 56, 124, and 128. This failure precludes *Freeman* from anticipating claims 1, 56, 124, and 128. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the 102(a) rejection of claims 1, 56, 124, and 128 be removed and allowance of the same. Additionally, the claims that depend from claims 1, 56, 124, and 128 are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 56, 124, and 128.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 110-115 are allowed. Applicants appreciate allowance of these claims.

The Examiner objected to claims 12, 14, 21, 47, 49, 66-69, 75-77, 82, 99, 105, 107-109, 120, 126, and 127 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As set forth above, Applicants have amended claims 1, 56, and 106 to include the limitations of claims 49, 105, and 107, respectively. Further, claims 67, 82, and 120 have been rewritten as new claims 131, 140, and 141, respectively. Furthermore, claims 132-139 depend from claim 131 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 131. For these reasons, Applicants believe that claims 1, 56, 106, 131, 140, and 141 and the claims that depend therefrom are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same. Additionally, please note that the phrase “pressuring means” has been replaced with the phrase “pressuring system” throughout the allowed claims and pending claims.

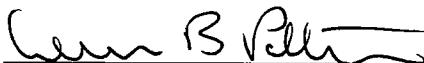
New Claims

Claims 142-147 have been added to claim specific aspects of the invention. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. Claims 142-147 include the limitations of a pressurizing system configured to apply a varying fluid pressure to the tubing such that the tubing is expanded and at least one first seal member disposed proximate an end of the pressurizing system and at least one second seal member disposed proximate another end of the pressurizing system, wherein the seal members are configured to isolate a portion of tubing to be expanded from ambient fluid. The references cited by the Examiner in the Office Action do not teach a seal member on either end of the pressurizing system, wherein the seal members are configured to isolate a portion of tubing to be expanded from ambient fluid. In contrast, *Artynov* merely discloses a ball valve 17 disposed on an end of the tubular to be expanded, *Freeman* merely discloses a stationary plug member 58 and an expansion member 62, and *Bodine and Smith* fail to disclose the expansion of a tubular. Therefore, Applicants believe that new claims 142-147 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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